
**Rombo Mountain Fire
Bitterroot National Forest
News Release**

Northern Rockies
Incident Management
Team
Larry Svalberg
Incident Commander

For Immediate Release

**Contact: Fire Information
406-821-0082**

Date: August 8, 2007 9 p.m.

Rombo Mountain Fire 3,050 Acres

West Fork, Mont. – The Rombo Mountain Fire has grown to 3,050 acres by Wednesday evening. The fire is primarily burning to the north and east into the Piquett and West Creek drainages. The fire is expected to continue active burning to the north, east and northwest over the next several days. The fire has been burning since July 31 and is located 16 miles south of Conner, MT and 4 miles northeast of Painted Rocks Lake.

Actions occurring Wednesday included dropping several loads of retardant on a ridge top on the northwest side of the fire in order to inhibit the fire from burning that direction; structure protection was completed at the Twogood Cabin located approximately 5 miles east of the fire; reinforcement of the line continued, and signs and barricades were installed on roads and trails that enter into the expanded closure area.

Plans for Thursday include continuing line construction on the northern and western edge of the fire as conditions allow; continued reinforcement of the line along the western edge of the fire; and maintaining structure protection readiness in areas with structures along the West Fork Road west of the fire.

The closure order remains in effect and fire and forest officials ask the public to cooperate with the closure for public and firefighter safety. Maps and full descriptions of the closed area are available at Forest offices, and on line at www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot.

Svalberg's incident management team is developing a long term plan for managing the fire based on predicted weather and fire behavior for Forest Supervisor, Dave Bull, to review. This plan provides management actions for incoming incident management teams to implement based on actual fire behavior over the next several weeks.

Some resources from the Rombo Mountain fire have been temporarily diverted to the Tin Cup Fire due to its proximity to structures on the outskirts of Darby, MT. The numerous large fires burning in Montana, Idaho and California are stretching available firefighting resources to the limits so cooperation between incident management teams near each other will continue to occur. Public and firefighter safety are the highest priority that Svalberg's incident management team, in coordination with the local forest personnel, take into consideration when planning and implementing fire management actions. A total of 157 personnel are assigned to the fire and additional firefighting crews and helicopters to provide support have been requested, but may not be available.

The web site "inciweb.org" has experienced high use that has disabled it temporarily. Until it becomes active again, information and maps for the Rombo Mountain Fire will be posted on the Bitterroot National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r1/bitterroot and you can continue to call (406) 821-0082 for additional information.

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